deprived the vast majority of the Russian Jews of their subsistence. For the non-Jews, of whom 85 per cent were engaged in agriculture, 6 per cent in industry and handicrafts, and only 2 per cent in commerce, the transition to the new economic system meant much less of a cataclysm than for the Jews, of whom nearly 90 per cent were engaged in commerce, industry, and handicrafts. The measures taken by the Soviet Government against private traders and independent artisans hit the Jews infinitely harder than the non-Jews.

In 1921, after the first terrible years of despair and starvation, came the new economic policy (N.E.P.), which within certain limits admitted private trade (though subject to a loss of political rights by the trader); but even this provided only partial relief. The field open to private trade was narrow, and the economic policy of the Government changed continually, so that the trader lived in constant danger of new prohibitions or of ruinous taxation. Of those among the displaced who had a general education and were sufficiently young to start a new life, a certain number found employment on the administrative side of the nationalized industrial and commercial undertakings. Many artisans formed themselves into co-operatives and thus escaped the oppressive measures directed against the independent artisans. Between 1924 and 1932, about 15,000

families were settled in agriculture with the help of the Government and of Jewish philanthropic societies. The Jewish youth has been trying to find employment in professions or, since the launching of the Five Years Plan in 1929, as workmen in the industry which is being forcibly developed. But all this does not replace for the Jews their pre-War occupations. Of the older generation, unable to adapt themselves to the new conditions, hundreds of thousands were utterly ruined; they died of privations, or remained economically crippled, in constant danger of starvation and death. If the problem of these "declassed" has, of recent years, lost something of its terrible and tragic character, this is not due to a real im-